

JACKSONVILLE'S LIGHT RATE.

Said to be Cheapest Steam Illuminating Plant in the Country.

Just at this time, when there seems to be some opposition to the placing of meters by the Gainesville Gas and Electric Power Company, and in some instances protest upon what the protesters term "exorbitant" rates, the following is taken from a recent issue of The Florida Sun, Jacksonville.

It will be seen that even in Jacksonville, which is shown to be the cheapest steam plant in the United States furnishing illumination, that some consumers of that city are dissatisfied. The Sun says:

"With the question of bonding being discussed for the extension of the light, water and drainage systems, the present light supply and the cost of it is having part in the discussion. Many are complaining of the light burden. Strange, others say, that anyone should complain of a light burden, as it is generally the heavy burden which brings forth groans. Some say that the minimum for lights is a burden within itself, and when added to the price of seven cents a thousand watts, the load is more than many poor citizens can carry. On the contrary, it is contended by the superintendent that very few cities pay as little for lighting as Jacksonville. There is a continual demand for more lights and cheaper lights; more lights for the streets and cheaper lights for the homes.

"As a reason why so many applications for street lights were refused, Mr. Ellis says that each of the eight street lighting circuits now in service are already taxed to the utmost capacity.

"When these circuits were made and reconstructed immediately after the great fire," said Mr. Ellis, "they more than covered all the needs of the city and latitude was left, it was thought at the time, to cover all future demands for several years. The capacity of each circuit is fifty street lamps, while there are actually 538 lights now furnished the city. The over-taxing of a circuit would result in the burning out of insulation and leaving that section of the city in darkness."

"The generating capacity of the plant, according to Mr. Ellis' figures, has not yet been reached. It is yet good for 300 kilowatts, but to supply additional lights it would be necessary to construct two more circuits and rearrange them all.

"According to the charter the city pays for its lights just as does an individual. The amount appropriated for the present fiscal year is \$30,000. Mr. Ellis says that on business principles

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